
Collection Information

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Kelly Gascoine
February 13, 2008

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:  

Manuscript Materials:  
14 document cases, 1 card file box, 1 oversize folder

Visual Materials:  
32 boxes of photographs,  
1 box of OVA size photographs,  
1 folder of color photographs,  
1 box of OVB size graphics,  
2 folders of oversize graphics in flat file storage,  
1 photograph album,  
3 boxes of slides,  
4 boxes of 4x5 acetate negatives

COLLECTION DATES:  
Ca. 1860s–1990s (Bulk 1940s–1960s)

PROVENANCE:  
Russell M. Lintner, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1992

RESTRICTIONS:  
Negatives and slides may be viewed only with the assistance of library staff.  
Films are not available, see Series 21 for explanation.

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:  
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER:  
1992.0232

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Russell M. Linter was born 16 December 1904. A Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania resident, Lintner worked for Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation as a General Office Purchasing Department Expeditor. His interest in steamboats began in 1933 when he visited riverboats docked at the Monongahela River Wharf. Soon Lintner was traveling downriver on packet and supply ships and photographing riverboats. In the 1960s, he began to conduct extensive riverboat research. A member of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, America’s Riverboat Historical Society, Lintner contributed research and authored several articles in the S&D Reflector, the journal sponsored by the society. His riverboat photographs were published in the Pittsburgh Press and published as postcards. Lintner’s fascination with riverboats continued until his death in Pittsburgh on 14 May 1995.

Steamboats first appeared on western rivers in 1811 when Robert Fulton’s steamboat, New Orleans, sailed roundtrip from Pittsburgh to New Orleans. The steamboat industry quickly expanded as steamboats revolutionized western industry and commerce. The 1850s were known as the “Golden Age” of steamboats; however, the spread of railroads led to the decline in steamboat usage. In the post-Civil War era, steamboats were mostly used for local travel and trade. Steamboats did manage to carve out one niche market for themselves as towboats. The twentieth century saw the advent of steel-hulled boats and a move toward diesel-propelled rather than steam-propelled boats. Steamboats (or diesel boats, as the case may be) continue to be used primarily as barges and towboats for coal and other supplies.

Sources:


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection features several thousand photographs of mid-nineteenth century through late twentieth century riverboats that were active on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The collection also includes postcards, negatives, slides, and films of riverboats as well as riverboat research and information from nineteenth and twentieth century newspapers. The bulk of the visual material dates from the 1940s–1960s.

In addition to featuring riverboats, the collection also showcases the landscape and cityscape of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ca. 1860s–1980s (bulk 1940s–1960s).

Photographs in the collection were taken by Lintner, purchased by him or given to him. Most photographs have explanatory text and boat history on the verso. The majority of images show riverboat exteriors, but some display interiors, people, or places associated with riverboats. All photographs are organized alphabetically by riverboat name unless otherwise noted. Please refer to Series Three for information and ephemera associated with specific photographs. Lintner’s original organization of photographs, by boat type and photograph size, has largely been maintained, and images of the same riverboats may be found in multiple series.

A few notes are needed as to Pittsburgh newspapers, research from which appears in Series 2. The Pittsburgh Commercial Journal existed until 1862. A separate paper, the Pittsburgh Commercial, existed from the time of the Civil War until 1877. The Pittsburgh Gazette existed from 1828–1862. In 1862, the Gazette merged with the Commercial Journal and was consequently called the Pittsburgh Daily Gazette and Commercial Journal. In 1877, the Daily Gazette and Commercial Journal merged with the Commercial and was simply called the Commercial Gazette until 1900. After 1862, Lintner may use “Gazette” to refer to the Daily Gazette and Commercial Journal and after 1877 he may use “Gazette” and “Commercial” interchangeably to refer to the Commercial Gazette.

Series 1: Correspondence, 1935–ca. 1990s. The major correspondent is Frederick Way. Several photographs are included.

Series 2: Steamboat Research Materials, 1842–1975. River News is information from nineteenth and twentieth century newspapers with manuscript material added by the author. River News is organized first by author (Lintner followed by Tippitt). Lintner’s River News is organized first by publication and then by date (i.e., River News from the Pittsburgh Commercial Journal are presented before those from the Pittsburgh Gazette). The Pittsburgh Gazette and Commercial Journal is referred to below either by its full name or simply as the Gazette. Tippitt draws from numerous publications within the same year, so his work is organized chronologically. There are approximately 25 photographs of the Civil War gunboat Cairo that relate to the folder on Civil War research. These photos are located in Series 10 under Civil War Gunboats.
Series 3: Printed Materials and Ephemera, 1848–1982. Series includes articles and graphic works of riverboats as well as ephemera removed from photographs. Photographs of the Katie Prather, associated with the schematics, can be found in Series 6, Packet Boats. Series also includes books and pamphlets associated with riverboats.

Series 4: Photographic Albums. Negatives for the 1936 Pittsburgh flood images are found in the negatives series.

Series 5: 8x10 Photographs, ca. 1860s–1960s: The bulk of the images are from the mid twentieth century. Some images are reprints of nineteenth century photographs.

Series 6: 5x7 Photographs of Packet Boats, ca. 1860s–1960s.

Series 7: 5x7 Photographs of Towboats, ca. 1880s–1960s.

Series 8: 5x7 Photographs from Lintner’s Negatives, Ca. 1940s–1960s. Within this series, steamboats and diesel boats are organized separately.

Series 9: 5x7 Photographs of Diesel Boats, Ca. 1940s–1960s.

Series 10: 5x7 Photographs of Civil War Riverboats.

Series 11: 5x7 Photographs of Showboats.

Series 12: 5x7 Photographs of Locations along Rivers. Photographs are organized alphabetically by site or town name.

Series 13: Gas and Diesel Riverboat Photographs, assorted sizes.

Series 14: Diesel Riverboat Photographs, assorted sizes.

Series 15: Steamboat Photographs, assorted sizes.

Series 16: Steamboat Photographs, sizes approximately 2.5x3.5 inches.

Series 17: General riverboat photographs, ca. 1860s–1980s. Series includes all types of riverboats, people, and places in various sized photographs. People are organized alphabetically by last name and places are organized alphabetically by city or place name. Several images of downtown Pittsburgh during the 1936 flood are included. Notes were removed from two photographs in the People section; see Series 3.


Series 19: Negatives. Acetate negatives, roughly 2.5 x 3.5 inches in size, are organized alphabetically by boat name. Also included are negatives of original artwork of the Good Old Days, the 1936 Pittsburgh flood, the 1959 flood, people, places, and 35 mm negatives of the Sprague, Expeditor, and Point.
Series 20: Slides 1886–1975. The bulk of the slides are images of steam boats and diesel boats, both black-and-white and color. These were arranged in alphabetical order by the boat names. The slides were originally stored in six metal slide boxes. These have been transferred to archival boxes for preservation. The original order has been maintained.

Series 21: Films, 1955–1958. Film script and lists for films. The 8 mm films are not available at this time as the library does not have equipment to convert the film to the DVD format. The films are in storage and will be processed at a later date.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Correspondence, 1935–ca. 1990s

CONTENTS

Personal correspondence and correspondence that refers to riverboats, 1935–1962.
Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Postcards, 1906–ca. 1990s. Included are correspondence and postcards collected by Lintner. The first half is organized alphabetically by boat name; the second half is organized alphabetically by state and town.
Photographs: Box 32

Six photographs from the Pittsburgh Press, sent to Lintner on January 12, 1955.
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Photograph of Steamer Mariner, sent to Lintner on February 22, 1962 with a letter from Dravo Corp.
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Photograph of riverboat Mary Woods No. 2, sent to Lintner on May 27, 1960 with a letter from Bob Newton, included in correspondence folder.
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs of Lake Erie, sent to Lintner on January 9, 1964 as part of a letter from Gilbert Love
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1


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Summary of riverboat research. River News from the 1852 Pittsburgh Daily Commercial Journal by Lintner
Box 1, Folder 3

River News, carbon copy from 1852–1853 Pittsburgh Daily Commercial Journal by Lintner
Box 1, Folder 4

River News from the 1862 Pittsburgh Commercial by Lintner
Box 1, Folder 5
River News from 12 September–31 December 1864
Pittsburgh Commercial by Lintner
Box 1, Folder 6

River News from 2 January–29 June 1865 Pittsburgh
Commercial by Lintner
Box 1, Folder 7

River News from 1 July–31 December 1865
Pittsburgh Commercial by Lintner
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River News, carbon copy from 1865 Pittsburgh
Commercial by Lintner
Box 2, Folder 1

River News from 1 July–31 December 1866
Pittsburgh Commercial by Lintner
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River News from January–15 April 1867 Pittsburgh
Commercial by Lintner
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River News from 21 July–30 December 1876
Pittsburgh Commercial by Lintner
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River News from 1848–1850 Pittsburgh Gazette by
Lintner
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River News carbon copy from 1848–1851 Pittsburgh
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River News from 9 January–31 December 1851
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River News carbon copy from 1857 Pittsburgh Gazette
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Gazette by Lintner
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River News carbon copy from 1858 Pittsburgh *Gazette*  
Box 4, Folder 1

River News from 1859 Pittsburgh *Gazette* by Lintner  
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River News carbon copy from 1859 Pittsburgh *Gazette*  
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River News from 2 January–31 December 1860 and 1861 Pittsburgh *Gazette* by Lintner  
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River News carbon copy from 1 January–31 December 1860 and 1861 Pittsburgh *Gazette* by Lintner  
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River News from 1862 Pittsburgh *Gazette and Commercial Journal* by Lintner  
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River News from 1863 Pittsburgh *Gazette* by Lintner  
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River News carbon copy from 1863 by Lintner  
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River News from 1 January–8 March 1864 Pittsburgh *Gazette* by Lintner  
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River News carbon copy from 1 January–8 March 1864 by Lintner  
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River News from 1 January–30 June 1866 Pittsburgh *Gazette* by Lintner  
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River News from 1 January–30 June 1870 Pittsburgh *Gazette* by Lintner  
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<td>River News carbon copy from 1872 by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News from 1875 Pittsburgh <em>Gazette</em> by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News carbon copy from 1875 by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News from 1 January–1 July 1878 Pittsburgh <em>Commercial Gazette</em> by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News from July–2 December 1878 Pittsburgh <em>Gazette</em> by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News from 1898 Pittsburgh <em>Commercial Gazette</em> by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News carbon copy from 1866 Pittsburgh <em>Commercial and Pittsburgh Gazette</em> by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News from 1867 Pittsburgh <em>Commercial</em> and Pittsburgh <em>Gazette</em> by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News carbon copy from 1867 by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News from 1 January–29 June 1868 Pittsburgh <em>Gazette</em> and Pittsburgh <em>Commercial</em> by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News carbon copy from 1868 by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News from 1873 Pittsburgh <em>Gazette</em> and Pittsburgh <em>Commercial</em> by Lintner</td>
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<td>River News carbon copy from 1873 by Lintner</td>
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Box 9, Folder 2

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Box 9, Folder 3

River News from 1854 – 1859 by W.H. Tippitt

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417 pages, folder 2 of 2.

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**Series 3: Printed Materials and Ephemera, 1848–1982**

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<td>Newspaper and magazine articles about riverboats, 1958–1968</td>
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<td>Articles and newsletters about riverboats with associated correspondence and research, 1964–1971</td>
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<td>Newspaper articles of <em>Snyder’s</em> last trip, 1955 (1 of 2)</td>
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<td>Newspaper articles of <em>Snyder’s</em> last trip, 1955 (2 of 2)</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings mentioning <em>Sprague</em>, 1959, 1974</td>
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<td>The River Press newspapers with information about mountain boats, 1937, 1946</td>
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<td>Newsletters, brochures, programs about riverboats</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous printed materials about riverboats</td>
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<td>Printed images of riverboats</td>
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Stationary with riverboat artwork
Printed materials removed from 5”x7” photographs of packet boats
Printed materials and notes removed from 5”x7” photographs of towboats
Notes removed from 5”x7” photographs of Civil War Boats
Printed materials removed from 5”x7” photographs of Places and locations
Notes removed from diesel boat photographs
Notes removed from steamboat photographs
Notes removed from the People section of Series 17. Corresponding picture for first item is dated Nov. 11, 1959. Corresponding picture for second item is an image of a man in an engine room from CB Copeland.
Printed material and note removed from photo albums
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Steamboat Washington; built 1820... wood cut
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Riverboat prints, assorted sizes
Riverboat Prints
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<td>“The Good Old Days,” illustration by Erwin L. Hess, 1963</td>
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<td>Watercolor painting of a teapot by Schomaker</td>
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<td>Steamboat Calendar, 1965</td>
<td>Oversized Graphic: Flat File 1-o Folder 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Currier and Ives print “Rounding a Bend on the Mississippi River” (2 images)</td>
<td>Oversized Graphic: Flat File 1-o Folder 2</td>
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<td>Barkhau, Roy Leslie. <em>The great steamboat race between the Natchez and the Rob’t E. Lee.</em></td>
<td>Pamphlet Collection VM625.M5 B3 1952</td>
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<td>Bates, Alan L. <em>Belle of Louisville: Ohio River Steamboat</em></td>
<td>General Collection VM461.5.B44 B3 1965</td>
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<td>Cooley, Ester. <em>Come aboard the Steamer America, the last cotton packet boat on the lower Mississippi 1898–1926.</em></td>
<td>Pamphlet Collection HE566.S5 C66 1962</td>
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<td><em>The Curtis Courier</em></td>
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<td>Dravo Corp. <em>Modern river towboats</em></td>
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<td><em>Dravo Review</em></td>
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Fishbaugh, Charles Preston. *From Paddlewheels to Propellers.*

Hanson, Joseph. *The conquest of the Missouri: Being the story of the life and exploits of Capt. Grant Marsh.*

Inland Rivers Library Annual Report

Klein, Benjamin. *The Ohio River Handbook and Picture Album.*

*Maiden Voyage: Steamer Champion Coal*

Near, Gibbs & Co. *70 years, three score years and ten.*

Norman, N. Philip. *The red river of the south.*


Rees, James and Sons. *James Rees and Sons Company: designers, contractors, and builders of iron and steel hull freight and passenger steamers, tugboats, dredgeboats, towboats, and barges for inland waters...*


Samuel, Ray. *Tales of the Mississippi.*


Simcox, Betty Blake. *Greene Line Steamers, Inc. celebrates its 75th anniversary.*

*Souvenir Program: Elizabeth and west Elizabeth bridge dedication, June 20, 1953*

*A Special Salute to the Mississippi Queen: for a successful maiden voyage*
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Album of riverboat *J. L. Perry*  
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Album with photos from Captain Jesse Hughes  
(folded 1 of 2)  
Photographs:  
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Album with photos from Captain Jesse Hughes  
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Album of 1936 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania flood  
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Riverboat names beginning with R
Photographs: Box 2, Folder 9

Riverboat names beginning with S
Photographs: Box 2, Folder 10

Riverboat names beginning with T
Photographs: Box 2, Folder 11

Riverboat names beginning with U
Photographs: Box 2, Folder 12

Riverboat names beginning with V
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**Series 6: 5x7 Packet Boats Photographs, Ca. 1860s–1960s**

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Series 8: 5x7 Photographs from Lintner's Negatives, Ca. 1940s–1960s

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Box 16

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Box 16

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Box 16
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Color photographs of steamboats
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**Series 17: General Riverboat Photographs, Ca. 1860s–1980s**

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Riverboats, names A through *Aliquippa*
Photographs: Box 20

Riverboats, names A from *Allegheny*
Photographs: Box 21

Riverboats, names B
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Photographs: Box 21

Riverboats, names C from *Clipper*
Photographs: Box 22
Riverboats, names D–H

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Riverboat photos displayed in the *General Wood*

Photographs: Box 22

Riverboats, names I–L

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Riverboats, names M–Q

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Riverboats, names R–V

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Riverboats, names W–Z, unknown names, People, Places.

Photograph dated Nov. 11, 1959 in People section had identifying sheet located in box 14, folder 15.

Color photographs of riverboats

Color Photographs: Folder 1

Photograph of the *Roberto Calisto*

OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4

Photograph of the *S. S. Brown*

OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 5

Photograph of the *Will. S. Hays*

OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 6

*James Rees Photographs: Pittsburg river and bridge, Exposition Building and shoreline, Riverboats Cascade, Cascade Dauntless, Two Brothers, John C. Fisher, 1892*

OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 7

Photograph of the *Crucible*

OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 8

Photograph of Gordon C. Greene

OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 9

Photograph of towboat *Iron City* at the “Point” in Pittsburgh, Pa.

OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 10
Photograph of the *Belle McGowan*  
OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 11

Christening of the Steamer *J. L. Perry*, 1945  
OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 12

Centennial Celebration of Steamboat Navigation on  
Inland Waters, Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 31, 1911  
Photographer Ralph W. Johnston  
OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 13

Unidentified boat loaded with glassware for New  
Orleans Mardi Gras Trip in 1916  
Photographer Fred Way, Jr.  
OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 14

Photograph of the *J. Fleischman*  
OVB Graphics:  
Box 1, Folder 9

Photograph of the *Iroquois*  
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**Series 18: H. P. Fischer Postcard Collection**

**CONTENTS**

Riverboats, names A–Z  
Photographs:  
Box 32

**Series 19: Negatives**

**CONTENTS**

Boat names A–E  
4x5 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 1

Boat names F–M  
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Box 2

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4x5 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 3

Boat names W–Z,  
Unknown Boats, 1936 Pittsburgh Flood, 1959 Flood,  
People, Places, The Good Old Days. 35 mm negatives  
4x5 Acetate Negatives:  
Box 4
Series 20: Slides, 1886–1975

CONTENTS

Black and white 35 mm slides of steamboats, those with a red slash on the upper left corner were shown at Fred Way’s and Bob Smith’s gathering at Sewickley, 4/5/75.

[slides are in alphabetical order by the boat names, locations and some dates are noted on each slide, some images are copies of older photographs, ca. 1886–1958]

Color slides of diesel boats, arranged alphabetically by name from A to Z, 1956–1965

Color slides of steam boats arranged alphabetically by name from A to W, 1897–1975

Various color slide views of the steamer Sprague during dedication ceremonies, 4/27/59–9/30/59

Color slide views of ship models and artifacts at Buhl Planetarium September 10, 1959

Steamer Lady Grace, 1957

Ship models built by Jim Swertzwelder

Color slides of Avalon and crew 1956–1963

Color slides of paintings and prints: The Champions of the Mississippi, Good Old Days, Bowling Green, Gordon C. Greene, J.M. White, John W. Cannon, Liberty, Robt. E. Lee

CONTAINER

Slide Box 1: Bin 1–Bin 14

Slide Box 1: Bin 15–20

Slide Box 2: Bin 1–Bin 15

Slide Box 2: Bin 16–20

Slide Box 3: Bin 1–Bin 8

Slide Box 3: Bin 9–Bin 11

Slide Box 3: Bin 12

Slide Box 3: Bin 13

Slide Box 3: Bin 14

CONTENTS

Script:
Film of the last voyage of W.P. Snyder, Jr. from Crucible, PA to Marietta, OH; September 11–16, 1955

List with boat identification and dates for film made between 21 May and 24 June 1955 of various riverboats

List with boat identifications and dates for film made between 9 August 1955 and 8 September 1956 of various riverboats

CONTAINER

Box 14, Folder 15
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0945).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.